



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



242421

MAR 24 1999

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

MEMORANDUM

SE-5J

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - Request for an Emergency Removal Action at the Maple Lake Drum Site, Cook County, Illinois, (Site ID #B5A4)

FROM: Walter Nied, On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Section III

TO: Wendy Carney, Acting Chief
Emergency Response Branch

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Action Memorandum is to request and document approval to expend up to \$44,780 to abate a threat to public health and the environment posed by abandoned drums left at the Maple Lake Forest Preserve (95th and Wolf Rd.) Cook County, Illinois (hereinafter called the Maple Lake Drum Site). This memorandum also confirms and documents the verbal authorization of \$25,000, which the Acting Chief of the Emergency Response Branch approved on December 23, 1998, for this response action. This emergency response action was necessary because 22 drums were dumped on December 23, 1998, at the end of the Maple Lake parking lot onto the grass covered soil and appeared to contain waste paint. Some of the drums had no lids attached and one was labeled flammable. Most of the drums had ice on top of the dried paint, which was yellow and white in color, but four of the drums contained a light brown thick liquid which exhibited a solvent odor. A Photoionization Detector (PID) had readings of up to 2,000 ppm associated with this brown liquid which had been spilled on the soil in one area.

The emergency response action eliminated the potential for further release to the environment of the contents of these abandoned drums by having the U.S. Environment Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Emergency Contractor overpack and load the 22 drums in a rental truck that evening. This truck was then transported to a secure Cook County Forest Preserve Facility, located 1 mile west of 123rd and Wolf Rd., where the drums could be sampled for hazard characterization at a later time. Analytical results later confirmed that the material in 4 drums was ignitable. This response action was performed under Section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). This site is not on the National Priorities List.